

## Definitions

**academic course:** greater emphasis on theory rather than practical applications; focus on abstract thinking; more suitable for students who demonstrate initiative and independence in learning; destination courses after grade 10 include university, college, or workplace

**applied course:** greater emphasis on practical applications rather than theory; will use real-life situations and hands-on application; more suitable for students who benefit from more direct support; destination courses after grade 10 include college or workplace

**locally developed compulsory course:** available for students who have experienced significant difficulties in Grade 8 in English, Math, and/or Science; focus on essential skills; will count as compulsory credits towards a diploma; available in both Grade 9 and Grade 10; destination courses after Grade 10 include Grade 11 workplace.

**destreamed course:** a course that enables students to consolidate and continue to develop their understanding. English, French Geography, Math, and Science are all destreamed in grade 9. These courses are no longer offered in both academic and applied

**accommodation:** special teaching and assessment strategies, human supports, and/or individual equipment required for a student to learn and to demonstrate their learning.

**Certificate of Accomplishment:** recognition given when the requirements for diploma and certificate are not completed

**credit:** successful completion of 110 hours of a government recognized credit course that follows the policy documents; expectations must be at grade level.

**expectations:** content standards; what the student is expected to know and be able to do by the end of the year for each subject in each grade level

**IEP:** a working document to assist classroom teachers in helping students who require accommodations and/or modifications. Students do not need to be identified with an exceptionality to have an IEP.

**modification:** changes to the grade level of the learning expectations, materials used and/or assessment; elimination of a significant number of expectations; significant changes to the complexity of the expectations

**Ontario Secondary School Diploma**  
30 Credits are required (18 compulsory and 12 elective credits) in addition to the successful completion of the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Requirement and 40 Hours of Community Involvement.

**Ontario Secondary School Certificate**  
14 Credits are required (7 compulsory and 7 elective credits).

**Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT):** the test determines whether students have acquired the reading and writing skills considered essential for literacy; written in the Grade 10 school year; it is created and marked by the Education Quality and Accountability Office; passing this test is one of the high school diploma requirements.

**Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OSSLC):** this course is designed to help students acquire and demonstrate the literacy skills that are evaluated by the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT). Students who complete the course successfully will meet the provincial literacy requirement for graduation. There are specific eligibility requirements to take the course. Please see your high school Guidance Counsellor.

**compulsory credits:** courses a student must take to receive a diploma (18)

**elective credits:** courses a student is free to select

**substitution:** up to 3 courses may be substituted for compulsory credit courses.

## Supplemental Information for Parents and Grade 8 Students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) who are entering Grade 9

### What is an Individual Education Plan?

An Individual Education Plan is a written plan that describes the special education program and/or services required by a particular student. It may identify accommodations, modified learning expectations and/or alternative learning expectations.

**You, your teacher, your guidance counsellor, and your parents will help you to plan for success in high school and beyond!**

### What will your child's IEP look like in high school?

It will look very similar to the one that was developed for your child in Grade 8. Your child's strengths and areas of needs will be identified and this information will be used to develop your child's educational program.

### What are accommodations?

Accommodations alone may be made when the student is able to meet the learning expectations of the grade or course. Changes may be made to the classroom environment, teaching strategies, assessment strategies, or materials. Accommodations do not alter the learning expectations from the provincial curriculum.

### What are modified learning expectations?

Modified learning expectations may be written when the student is unable to meet current grade or course expectations. Modifications refer to the changes that are made to the grade level expectations for a subject or course to meet the needs of the student.

They may include:

- expectations from a different grade level;
- significant changes to the number and/or complexity of the learning expectations

### What are alternative expectations?

Alternative expectations may be written for students who need an individualized program that is not based on *The Ontario Curriculum*.

### How will these affect high school credits?

A student who receives accommodations will be working towards achieving curriculum expectations at grade level and a credit will be granted if a passing grade is achieved.

A student who receives modified learning expectations will be working towards curriculum expectations that differ from grade level. The high school Principal will determine whether achievement of the modified expectations (depending on the degree of modification) will result in successful completion of the course, and will decide whether the student will be eligible to receive a credit for the course.

A student who receives alternative expectations will be assessed in relation to the expectations set out in the IEP. The student will not be granted a credit for the successful completion of a course that consists of alternative expectations. A different format from the provincial report card may be used to record achievement.



### How will I know which educational goal is right for my child?

If your child has been receiving accommodations only, and has been meeting learning expectations at grade level, an Ontario Secondary School Diploma may be his or her educational goal.

If your child has been receiving modified expectations, an Ontario Secondary School Diploma or an Ontario Secondary School Certificate may be his or her educational goal.

If your child has been receiving alternative expectations, a Certificate of Accomplishment may be his or her educational goal.

### What if my child changes his or her mind and wants to pursue another educational goal?

Whether your child is looking at achieving a diploma or certificate, any credits that are obtained can be used toward both goals. For example, if your child achieves a Grade 9 English credit, this could be used as a requirement for the Ontario Secondary School diploma or the Ontario Secondary School Certificate.

### Grade 9 De-Streamed Courses

English, French, Geography, Math, and Science are de-streamed. This means these courses will no longer be offered in both applied and academic formats. This change does not apply to students who are registered in the specialized programs such as PWP, multi-needs/special needs, or students planning on locally developed compulsory courses. Grade 9 students who originally would have registered in applied or academic courses will now be studying in the same course, just like they're used to doing in their elementary school. By doing this, more students will be empowered to pursue the futures they want, with doors open to all post-secondary options, including apprenticeship, college, university, or into the workplace.

### What support will be given when my child writes the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test?

Accommodations that are available for your child during their daily work, may also be provided when writing the literacy test. These accommodations include extra time, small group setting and prompts about pace. Students with an IEP also have access to accommodations regularly used in a classroom setting which include, but are not limited to: scribing, use of a word processor, extra time and small group setting to write the test.

*Please note: Students who are trying to achieve an Ontario Secondary School Certificate or Certificate of Accomplishment may be exempt from writing the literacy test.*

For more information, parents can visit [www.eqao.com](http://www.eqao.com).

## What does it mean to graduate?

Your child may graduate with either the:

**Ontario Secondary School Diploma;  
Ontario Secondary School Certificate; or  
Certificate of Accomplishment**

## What does it take to graduate?

### Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD)

In order to achieve an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD), a student must achieve the following:

#### 18 Compulsory Credits

4 credits in English (1 per Grade)  
3 credits in Mathematics (at least 1 credit in Grade 11 or 12)  
2 credits in Science  
1 credit in the Arts  
1 credit in Canadian Geography (Grade 9)  
1 credit in Canadian History (Grade 10)  
1 credit in French as a Second Language or FNMI Language  
1 credit in Health and Physical Education  
0.5 credit in Career Studies  
0.5 credit in Civics  
3 additional credits (from specific areas)

#### 12 Elective Credits

### Ontario Secondary School Literacy Requirement

### 40 hours of Community Involvement Activities

**Students who select courses consistent with their interests, achievement and learning style will achieve success in high school.**

**Your Grade 8 teacher can help to figure out what type of learning a child is.**

**In Grade 9, there are four types of courses.**

### Ontario Secondary School Certificate (OSSC)

In order to earn an Ontario Secondary School Certificate (OSSC), a student must achieve **14 credits** distributed as follows:

#### Compulsory Credits

2 credits in English  
1 credit in Canadian Geography or Canadian History  
1 credit in Mathematics  
1 credit in Science  
1 credit in Health & Physical Education  
1 credit in the Arts or Technological Education

#### Elective Credits

7 credits selected by the student from available courses

### Certificate of Accomplishment

Students who leave school before fulfilling the requirements for the Ontario Secondary School diploma or the Ontario Secondary School Certificate may be granted a Certificate of Accomplishment.

The Certificate of Accomplishment may be a useful means of recognizing achievement for students who plan to take certain vocational programs (i.e., March of Dimes) or other kinds of further training, or who plan to find employment after leaving school.

## MTH1W1

MTH | Mathematics  
1 | Grade 9  
W | De-Streamed  
1 | 1 Credit

# W

### What is a De-Streamed Course?

A De-Streamed course

- enables students to consolidate and continue to develop their understanding of concepts;
- prepares students to take academic, applied or locally developed compulsory courses in grade 10

## ENG1D1

ENG | English  
1 | Grade 9  
D | Academic  
1 | 1 Credit

### What is an Academic Course?

An Academic course

- will place greater emphasis on theory rather than on practical applications;
- will focus on abstract thinking as a basis for learning and for future problem solving;
- is more suitable for students who demonstrate initiative and independence in learning.

# D

## SNC1L1

SNC | Science  
1 | Grade 9  
L | LDCC  
1 | 1 Credit

# L

### What is a Locally Developed Compulsory Course?

A Locally Developed Compulsory Course (LDCC)

- has been designed to prepare students for Grade 11 Workplace courses;
- will be recommended by the Grade 8 teacher for students who have significant gaps in their learning and are below grade level;
- will be offered in Grade 9 and Grade 10 English, Science and Mathematics.

## PPL1O1

PPL | Healthy Active Living Education  
1 | Grade 9  
O | Open  
1 | 1 Credit

# O

### What is an Open Course?

An Open course

- is designed to prepare students for further study in the subject area;
- has expectations that are designed and appropriate for all students;
- appeals to students who have a variety of learning skills.